

REMARKS

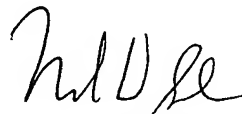
By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-17 and 25-30 remain in the application. Claims 18-24 have been canceled as they were allowed in the parent application 10/011,345, filed December 5, 2001. During prosecution of the parent application, apparatus claims 1-17 and 25-30 were canceled in response to a restriction requirement which grouped these claims in Group I and grouped method claims 18-24 in Group II. Method claims 18-24 were elected for prosecution in the parent application. This divisional application now presents the claims of Group I for examination.

Applicants would like to point out that a grandparent patent application serial no. 09/877,480 issued on March 4, 2003 as Patent No. 6,527,800. The parent application 10/011,345 was allowed on August 26, 2003.

Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe it would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/12/03

By: 
Neil D. Gershon
Reg. No. 32,225
Attorney for Applicant

Rex Medical
2023 Summer St.
Suite 2
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 348-0377